to declare the river Godavari between Rajahmundry and Cherla as a National Waterways;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has written a letter on the 20th February, 1997 on this proposal; and

(c) if so, the status of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The proposal to declare Cherla-Rajamundry stretch of river Godavari as a National Waterway was formulated as per the recommendation of the National Transport Policy Committee.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal is under process.

Un-utilised land of Kandla Port Trust

2456. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 4123 acres of land, Kandla Port Trust has utilised 1769 acres of land for their use and the remaining 2354 acres of land is lying un-utilised;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat had repeatedly represented to Government to hand over the unutilised land for industrial development at Gandhinagar;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have considered the above representations;

(e) if so, by when the surplus land is proposed to be handed over to the State Government for developing the same; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Yes, Sir. There is no surplus land at Kandla and the lands presently lying unutilised are required for the development of the port and the port's township.

World Bank Assistance for Development of State and National Highways

2457. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is assisting for improvement and development of State and National Highways;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance expected in 1997-98 and how it will be utilised, State-wise; and

(c) the assistance proposed for 'express roads' suggested by the Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1997-98, a loan amounting to US $ 385.5 million is expected to be signed for improvement of State Highways in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) No 'express roads' is proposed to be taken up in Andhra Pradesh under World Bank Loan assistance.

Development of Container Transhipment Terminal

2458. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop a Container Transhipment Terminal (CTT) in South on the basis of study made by the

Fredric R. Harris (India) on the project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of Netherland offered financial assistance for the project; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken on the project report?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of Netherlands funded a Study called "Locational Advantage Study-Cochin Versue Tuticorin", conducted by M/s. Fredric R. Harris. The Final Report has been received by the Government.

(d) Cochin and Tuticorin Ports have been requested to undertake feasibility studies for construction of modern container terminals, which can also be used as transhipment ports.

Unloading and packaging terminal at Cochin Port

2459. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any proposal from the Cochin Port for setting up of unloading and packaging terminal;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether it is a fact that the project has not been approved despite the fact that the Land Allotment Committee chaired by the Surface Transport Secretary had cleared it on the 6th March, 1996; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when it is proposed to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cochin Port Trust have forwarded two proposals for setting up of Cement Unloading and Packaging Terminals on the basis of offers received in response to Press Advertisement.

(c) and (d) The Project has been turned down in view of environmental consideration and objections from the State Government.

Setting up of cement unloading terminal by Cochin Port Trust

2460. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cochin Port Trust invited tenders for setting up of Cement unloading terminal on 18th November, 1994 and if so, the details of the proposals received and recommended by the Port for approval to Government:

(b) whether the said proposal was approved by the land Allotment committee chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport and if so, how many times; and

(c) whether the proposal was also approved by him but withdrawn subsequently and if so, the reasons therefor and by when it is to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Four offers were received in response to Press Advertisement.

(b) Yes, Sir. The proposal was cleared by the Internal Committee of the Ministry two times.

(c) Yes, Sir. The proposal was approved earlier but the decision was withheld in view of certain Court cases field against the proposal highlighting the pollution angle and in view of the withholding of the pollution clearance earlier given by the State Pollution Control Board. The Industries Department of the State Government has also opposed the proposal.

The proposal has been finally turned down in view of the above factors.